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SO YOU'RE HOSTING THANKSGIVING

What were you thinking? 18-19



Where do the Giants rank in this week's NFL Power Rankings? 21

Subway station Post-its proliferate. 2



STILL SLEAZY AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

Laugh away your pain this Thanksgiving with the return of Billy Bob Thornton. 14

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1. West Village residents are upset about the neighborhood disruption caused by an art exhibit of what rock band?
2. Where do the Giants rank in this week's NFL Power Rankings?
3. Which one of Billy Bob Thornton's other films does he say was once pitched to him as a potential sequel?

3 things you need to know

DRIVER IN TENN. BUS CRASH CHARGED WITH VEHICULAR HOMICIDE

The driver of an elementary school bus that crashed in Tennessee, killing five children and sending more than two dozen to the hospital, has been charged with vehicular homicide and reckless driving, police said. Speed appeared to have contributed to the crash, which left the bright yellow bus mangled and nearly severed in two, Police Chief Fred Fletcher said. Johnthony Walker, 24, was driving the bus full of students home from Chattanooga's Woodmore Elementary School on Monday when it veered off a road about a mile from the school, flipped onto its side and smashed into a tree and telephone pole, Fletcher said. Walker was driving on a narrow winding road at well above the posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour when he lost control, according to police. **REUTERS**



TRUMP DROPS PROMISE TO PROBE CLINTON ON EMAIL, CHARITY

Donald Trump will not pursue investigations against Hillary Clinton over her family's charity or her use of a private email server while she was secretary of state, MSNBC said, dropping a threat made to his Democratic rival during the bitter presidential campaign. Republican Trump had vowed to jail Clinton and crowds at his rallies chanted "Lock her up." But he now believes she "has been through enough," MSNBC reported on Tuesday, citing an unidentified source. Addressing the report in an interview with MSNBC, senior Trump adviser Kellyanne Conway indicated it was correct. "Hillary Clinton still has to face the fact that a majority of Americans don't find her to be honest or trustworthy, but if Donald Trump can help her heal then perhaps that's a good thing," she said on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" program. **REUTERS**

EX-NBA STAR RODMAN CHARGED WITH DRIVING WRONG WAY ON HIGHWAY

Former pro basketball star Dennis Rodman has been charged with driving the wrong way on a California highway and forcing another car to swerve into a concrete dividing wall before he left the scene, prosecutors said. The Orange County district attorney's office said it brought the hit-and-run charges against Rodman on Monday in connection with the July 20 incident in Santa Ana. The case represents the Hall of Fame player's latest brush with the law. Rodman, a former NBA forward with the Detroit Pistons and the Chicago Bulls, drove his sport utility vehicle the wrong way on Interstate 5 in the carpool lane, prosecutors said in a statement. Prosecutors did not say whether the occupants of the other vehicle were injured. **REUTERS**

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HOLIDAY, NOVEMBER 23-24, 2016

Post-it notes form a heart at the Union Square subway station. **AMANDA MIKELBERG**

Post-it hope notes go viral

The 14th Street phenomenon has cropped up at Hunter College, at Atlantic Terminal and at Union Square.



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Like pastel petals vining up a garden wall, little pieces of paper with messages of hope, tolerance — and distress, too — are spreading through the transit system, and around the country, as a form of therapeutic expression in the aftermath of the presidential election.

"Subway Therapy" started with Brooklyn actor Matthew "Levee" Chavez's fantasy of setting up a table and chairs in New York City for simple conversation; six months ago the idea evolved into his "Secret Keeper" table where passersby could anonymously confess something in a notebook. And although he clearly states that he is not a licensed therapist, so many people referred to what he was doing as therapy that

he rebranded and began hearing people out.

Then, as a city of Hillary Clinton supporters mourned the outcome of the election, Chavez adjusted his concept again.

"When I went out on Wednesday, I brought the Secret Keeper notebook with the idea that I would hang the little papers on the wall. And when I was at the store figuring out how I would attach them, I saw a bunch of Post-its," Chavez told Metro. He was instantly reminded of a Valentine's Day when he and his mom filled his father's hospital room with messages on Post-its cut into hearts.

Chavez launched his project at the West 14th Street and Sixth Avenue subway station, where he collected and saved the notes each night. Soon, a wall of Post-it hopes cropped up a few blocks away in the Union Square station.

"It's like when you plant a garden and then the seeds spread and grow and you didn't even know where they were," Chavez said. Similar walls have sprung up at the Hunter College subway stop as well as Atlantic Terminal,

"It's like when you plant a garden and then the seeds spread and grow and you didn't even know where they were."

Chavez

which reportedly have now been cleared away.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo added his note last week to the Union Square station.

"What I like about Union Square is that I didn't do any curating, didn't encourage it myself," Chavez said. "And it ended up being two different locations and feelings, and I love that feeling there. It's overwhelming, it's visually stunning and it's amazing it's stayed up."

One admirer at the Union Square wall said it reaffirmed her love of the city. "New Yorkers get it right every time," said Julie Bold. "I feel sad for

Florida, they messed up, but New York knows what it's doing. To see this, it brings hope back into my heart."

Paul Monar said: "It makes me feel better to see that people haven't given in to the hate."

Chavez said that he will carry on the Post-it note project for the unforeseeable future.

Messages at Union Square run the gamut of emotions: From "Trump, this is the wall you will never build!" to "In unity we find serenity, in knowing our love is one-size fits all," and "Love is love is love."

As for the haters, Chavez said that of the 12,000 notes he's archived there have only been about 10 that were truly offensive, vulgar or hateful.

"For me, I am going to take this opportunity since I have the attention to make this my career to help people to build projects that help their community," Chavez said, adding that he is thinking about the importance of art therapy. "To help people heal and go on and do great things. That's my mission."

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Bus terminal plan widens divide between New York and New Jersey officials

A New York lawmaker said the New Jersey chairman is acting "tyrannically."



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The plan to replace the antiquated and inadequate Port Authority bus terminal in Manhattan has been driven into a river of political discord between New York and New Jersey officials.

Some New York lawmakers are indignant about Port Authority's New Jersey chairman John Degnan's plan to push forward the \$10 billion project, and released what they maintain are premature design proposals. One primary concern: He had not ruled out the possibility of using eminent domain to secure the territory in Midtown Manhattan.

Port Authority Vice Chairman Steve Cohen abruptly resigned. And another group of lawmakers wrote a letter rescinding their March consent for the project on the grounds that Degnan did not conduct appropriate environmental



Port Authority Bus Terminal. ROB YOUNG/CREATIVE COMMONS

impact studies before authorizing a design competition.

"We have seen what happens when politics drives the Port Authority's decisions and will not let a single individual's political needs drive important regional decision making," read the Nov. 16 letter to Degnan, which was signed by Congressman Jerry

Nadler and several other area lawmakers.

"He's acting very tyrannically," Nadler told the New York Daily News. The proposed bus depot would be in Nadler's district, and he fears that the behemoth would entail seizing private property without approval from the community.

Degnan replied to the

letter promptly. "Your characterizations of my actions are completely unfounded and I am truly disappointed in your abrupt change in our recently agreed decision to move forward collaboratively," he wrote in response, the Real Deal reported.

The office of Gov. Cuomo acknowledged the difficulties of de-

termining who can authorize the project. "Everyone agrees that the bus terminal has to be improved, but it's a New York project and we have never had one state dictate what should be built in the other," Cuomo spokesman Rich Azzopardi told the Daily News.

Cohen, who boycotted a monthly board

meeting last week and then resigned from his post, articulated the concern echoed among his colleagues on the New York City side that the controversy could devolve into a "Busgate" scandal, as he perceives a conflict of interest involving Degnan's son, Phillip James Degnan, who this year was confirmed to a post in the Gov. Chris Christie administration.

Christie has been particularly dogged in his intentions to improve infrastructure, and share the costs with other entities.

Although some NYC-side officials take umbrage that Degnan did not disclose his son's appointment to the Port Authority board, he rejects the suggestion of a possible conflict of interest.

"The unanimous March 2016 board vote to proceed with the project came after more than 18 months of work by Port Authority staff committed to the mission of this agency," Degnan said to the Daily News. "It was in no way influenced or motivated by any political objective. I am insulted by any inference to the contrary."

Two dead after beam falls at Queens construction site

Two construction workers were killed Tuesday when a beam fell at a job site in Queens.

The accident occurred around noon at a construction site on 134th Street in the Briarwood section, near the south end of Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

The nearly 30-foot-long beam fell six stories and crashed on top of a crane operator's compartment, ABC 7 reported. The machine is owned by Cranes Express, according to reports.

"We are aware that there are two fatalities. We believe they're both construction workers. ... We do not know the cause yet," said Mayor Bill de Blasio at a news conference outside 1 Police



TWITTER/@FDNY

Plaza, the New York Daily News reported.

"We need to know of course right away whether it was mechanical, was it human error. We don't know yet," the mayor added.

The identities of the victims have not been released by authorities, but reports say that crane operator was 47 years old and the flag man was 43.

Tuesday saw winds of 20 to 30 mph with

wind gusts up to 40 mph. Whether that was a factor in the accident hasn't been determined.

"I'm amazed that somebody was crazy enough to use a mobile crane today," Pete Corrigan, New York District Council of Carpenters, told the Daily News.

Corrigan said that 90 percent of the workers in his labor group were not out on jobs because of the wind.

"This crane shouldn't have been up today. How many guys are going to die because of street greed? This is not what these families need two days before Thanksgiving," he added.

Kimberly M. Aquilina contributed to this report
NIKKI M. MASCALI

BRIEFS

Donate to Metro's Toy Drive

In keeping with the holiday spirit of giving, Metro is once again launching Metro Magic, our annual toy drive for underprivileged children in New York, Boston and Philadelphia.

This year marks the seventh anniversary of the toy drive, which was renamed in memory of the man who oversaw the project for more than four years, Tony Metcalf, Metro's longest-running editor in chief. Mr. Metcalf passed away in 2013 from colon cancer at the age of 50.

Mr. Metcalf lit up every year as he saw the faces of children unwrap their holiday gifts. It is our goal to keep that magic alive.

"Tony felt we should use the size and scale of Metro to help others and he used enormous dedication and force to execute the project and every year make children in need a little happier during the holiday season," said Metro's Chief Executive Officer

Yggers Mortensen.

"I am proud to continue this project in honor of Tony and I hope all our readers, suppliers and members of the Metro team will help to make this yet another great Metro Magic year."

Metro has created a wish list at the Target website that readers can access by going to Metro.us and clicking on the Tony's Metro Magic story on the homepage.

From there, just choose the toys you wish to donate, pay online using Target's secure payment system, and your gifts, along with your name attached, will be delivered to Metro's offices in each city.

This season, we hope you will remember the children who will spend the holidays in shelters or who may not have gifts to open. Even one small gift can make a big difference in a child's holiday season.

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Trump keeping 'open mind' on pulling out of climate accord

Trump told The New York Times in an interview that he thinks there is "some connectivity" between human activity and global warming, despite previously describing climate change as a hoax.

President-elect Donald Trump said on Tuesday he was keeping an open mind on whether to pull out of a landmark international accord to fight climate change, in a softening of his stance toward global warming.

A source on Trump's transition team told Reuters earlier this month that the New York businessman was seeking quick ways to withdraw the United States from the 2015 Paris Agreement to combat climate change.

But asked on Tuesday whether the United States would withdraw from the accord, the Republican said: "I'm

looking at it very closely. I have an open mind to it."

A U.S. withdrawal from the pact, agreed to by almost 200 countries, would set back international efforts to limit rising temperatures that have been linked to the extinctions of animals and plants, heat waves, floods and rising sea levels.

Trump, who takes office on Jan. 20, also said he was thinking about climate change and American competitiveness and "how much it will cost our companies," he said, according to a tweet by a Times reporter in the interview.

Two people advising Trump's transition team on energy and environment issues said they were caught off guard by his remarks.

A shift on global warming is the latest sign Trump might be backing away from some of his campaign rhetoric as life in the Oval Office approaches.

Trump has said he might have to build a fence, rather than a



President-elect Donald Trump gives a thumbs up to the crowd as he walks through the lobby of the New York Times following a meeting with editors at the paper on Nov. 22, in New York City. GET IMAGES

wall, in some areas of the U.S.-Mexican border to stop illegal immigration, tweaking one of his signature campaign promises.

Also in Tuesday's interview, he showed little appetite for pressing investigations of his Democratic rival in the presidential campaign, Hillary Clinton.

"I don't want to hurt the Clintons, I really don't. She went through a lot and suffered greatly in many different ways," he told reporters, editors and other newspaper officials at the Times headquarters in Manhattan.

But Trump said "no" when asked if he would rule out investigating Clinton over her fam-

ily's charitable foundation or her use of a private email server while she was U.S. secretary of state during President Barack Obama's first term.

If Trump does abandon his campaign vow to appoint a special prosecutor for Clinton, it will be a reversal of a position he mentioned almost

daily on the campaign trail, when he dubbed his rival "Crooked Hillary," and crowds at his rallies often chanted: "Lock her up."

The FBI investigated Clinton's email practices, concluding in July that her actions were careless but that there were no grounds for bringing charges.

The Clinton Foundation charity has also been scrutinized for donations it received, but there has been no evidence that foreign donors obtained favors from the State Department while Clinton headed it.

Trump, a real estate developer who has never held public office, brushed off fears over conflicts of interest between his job as president and his family's businesses.

"The law's totally on my side, the president can't have a conflict of interest," he told The New York Times. My company's so unimportant to me relative to what I'm doing," Trump said. REUTERS

Brooklyn man charged with supporting ISIS

A Brooklyn man who allegedly supported ISIS and traveled to Yemen to join the militant group was arrested at his home Monday on terrorism charges, officials said.

Mohamed Rafik Naji, a permanent U.S. citizen who was born in Yemen, faces charges he gave material support to the Islamic State. Authorities also say he tried to join the terror group during a trip to Yemen last year. His lawyer, Susan Kellman, said the trip to Yemen was "legitimate" because "he has family there."

But U.S. Attorney Robert Capers said "as alleged, the defendant was persistent in his efforts to join ISIL and support its terrorist

objectives," referring to another name for the terror organization. "We will continue to identify and prosecute individuals like Naji who seek to empower our nation's enemies and endanger our citizens and partners around the world."

Naji offered support to ISIS following the July attack in Nice, France, which killed 86 people and injured more than 400, according to the charges. He also told undercover FBI agents he supported planning an attack in Times Square, though one was not carried out, the charging documents stated.

Investigators said Naji posted support for ISIS on Facebook and had the group's flag in



View of Times Square GETTY IMAGES

his profile and cover photos on the social media site.

Naji is being held without bail. Court

officials said he was a driver for Uber, but the car service company has denied he was an employee. NIKKI M. MASCALI

BRIEF



NYPD

Armed bandits steal luxury watches worth \$300K from Madison Avenue store

Police are searching for two armed suspects who robbed a Madison Avenue luxury watch store of five watches worth \$300,000 on Monday morning.

Footage from a surveillance camera shows the bandits, dressed in winter coats and sunglasses with their faces covered, walking into the Jaeger-LeCoultre location at 701 Madison Ave. at about 10:40 a.m.

One of the suspects, wearing a Yankees baseball cap, is seen pointing a handgun at what appears to be a store employee or security

guard. Police said he ordered three employees to the floor.

The other suspect, wearing a knit cap with earflaps, can be seen smashing a glass counter-top and glass wall display with a hammer, then removing the pricey Swiss watches.

The footage shows the suspects then casually walking out of the store, which is between 62nd and 63rd streets. They headed south on Madison Avenue, police said. None of the store employees was injured.

Anyone with information should call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 800-577-8477. NIKKI M. MASCALI

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Suspect in Texas police killing was angry over custody battles

The detective was shot twice in the head as he wrote a traffic ticket Sunday morning. Authorities said the assailant stopped his car behind Marconi's vehicle, walked up and shot the detective through the window.

A 31-year-old man suspected in the ambush killing of a police detective in Texas has apologized to the officer's family and said he "lashed out" in anger after several custody battles.

Otis McKane was arrested Monday for killing 50-year-old Benjamin Marconi, a 20-year veteran of the San Antonio force, who was gunned down as he sat in his squad car outside the department's headquarters.

As he was escorted by officers outside the building late Monday, McKane told reporters he had been involved in several custody battles.

"I just want to see my son. ... The situation I was in, I lashed out at

somebody who didn't deserve it," he said, without saying directly that he killed Marconi.

Asked by reporters whether he had any message for the slain officer's relatives, McKane replied: "I'm sorry."

Marconi was one of four officers shot in the line of duty in Texas, Missouri and Florida on Sunday. A total of 57 U.S. law-enforcement officers have been killed by gunfire this year, a 68 percent increase from the same period in 2015.

San Antonio Police Chief William McManus said McKane is responsible for the detective's "cold, calculated murder."

Police used a photo of the suspect's car and surveillance video to track down McKane, who was arrested without incident Monday while he was in a vehicle with a woman, who was not identified, and a 2-year-old child.

McKane got married about seven hours before his arrest, according to records obtained by the San Antonio Express-News, and his bride owned the car in which he was arrested, the newspaper



Otis Tyrone McKane
SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT HANDOUT

reported.

The video showed McKane pacing in front of the doors of police headquarters about four hours before the shooting. He spoke with someone on the intercom, police said, and he walked out about 20 seconds later.

McManus said McKane talked to a clerk inside the otherwise deserted building, then suddenly said "never mind" and left.

In a statement, Marconi's family thanked police and the local community "for the outpouring of prayers, support, and love we have received."

REUTERS

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BRIEF

Pilots strike at cargo airline serving Amazon, DHL as holidays near

Pilots at ABX Air, an express cargo airline that serves online retail giant Amazon and DHL Express, went on strike on Tuesday, a critical time for retailers with the holiday shopping season about to kick into high gear.

Some 250 pilots, who are represented by the Teamsters union, went on strike in the early morning, affecting around 75 flights, mostly for Amazon and DHL, a unit of Deutsche Post AG.

Pilots went on strike because ABX, owned by Air Transport

Services Group Inc., has violated its contract by asking them to work emergency hours over the last two years because of a staffing shortage, but then failed to grant them compensatory time off or allow pilots to take earned vacations, the union said.

"Our pilots are striking so that we can have the status quo of our contract restored, and we would like that to be in the next minute so we can return to serving our customers," said Tim Jewell, a pilot and secretary treasurer of Teamster Local 1224, which represents ABX pilots.

"But if the company chooses not to do that our members are

prepared to continue striking."

Air Transport Services Group said in a statement that ABX was taking multiple steps to tackle what it called an "illegal work stoppage" including seeking a court order to get the pilots back to work.

"We expect the court will uphold our position that the actions taken by the union to refuse work assignments is not legal, and the issues involved constitute a minor dispute to be resolved via arbitration under terms of our current labor agreements," ABX Air President John Starkovich said in a statement.

REUTERS

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10 NEWS

Obama grants 79 prison sentence commutations

President Barack Obama reduced the sentences of another 79 federal prisoners by exercising his commutation power, the White House said on Tuesday, bringing to more than 1,000 the number of prisoners whose sentences were commuted under Obama.

The prisoners are mainly nonviolent drug offenders, a group the White House had hoped to reach through criminal justice reform bills that have stalled in Congress.

Obama, with the help of pro bono lawyers and the Justice Department, announced in 2014 that he would use clemency and commutation powers to right the wrong of sentences he saw as overly harsh and unfit of the crime.

"While we are continuing to push for criminal justice reform, and that important piece of business remains unfinished,

I'm pleased to say the president has not just met but exceeded what he set out to do in 2014 by reinvigorating the clemency project," said White House Counsel Neil Eggleston.

Eggleston said the vast majority of the more than 1,000 prisoners have served far more time than the sentence they would have received if they had committed the same crime today.

Eggleston said he anticipates additional grants before Obama leaves office in January.

The Obama administration was flooded by petitions for clemency after the 2014 announcement.

There were about 6,000 pending petitions for drug offenders as of Aug. 31. Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates and the Justice Department made a commitment to review all of those petitions by the end of the administration.



President Barack Obama GETTY IMAGES

"I'm pleased to say the president has not just met but exceeded what he set out to do in 2014 by reinvigorating the clemency project."

Eggleston

President-elect Donald Trump has not said how he will treat pending petitions for clemency when he takes office. REUTERS

BRIEFS

North Carolina governor requests vote recount in tight race

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory announced on Tuesday he has officially requested a recount of votes from the Nov. 8 election with official results showing him trailing his Democratic challenger, Attorney General Roy Cooper, by one-tenth of a point.

The gubernatorial race in the ninth largest U.S. state remained undecided two weeks after Election Day. Officials with the State Board of Elections were continually updating results as they arrived from the state's 100 counties.

A recount is mandatory if the margin is less than 10,000 votes once all 100 counties have finished their canvasses, a spokesman for the election board said. As of Tuesday afternoon, Cooper's lead was 6,187 out of 4.7 million votes cast.

The election had been widely seen as a referendum on McCrory's support for a state law denying transgender people the right to use the public bathroom matching their gender identities, instead forcing them to use those corresponding to the gender assigned at birth.

The law led to widespread boycotting of North Carolina

by entertainers such as Bruce Springsteen and Itzhak Perlman while sports organizations such as the National Basketball Association and the National Collegiate Athletic Association moved major events out of state.

McCrory's request came in a letter to the election board dated Friday and made public on Tuesday.

McCrory's campaign has questioned the validity of the posted results, saying Cooper's total may be inflated by votes from dead people or felons ineligible to cast a ballot.

"With serious concerns of potential voter fraud emerging across the state, it is becoming more apparent that a thorough recount is one way the people of North Carolina can have confidence in the results, process and system," McCrory said.

Cooper, however, has already claimed victory.

Trump softens position on climate change, Clinton investigation

Democrats search for answers to stem a spreading Republican tide.

"This is nothing but a last-ditch effort from Gov. McCrory to delay and deny the results of this election," Cooper campaign manager Trey Nix said in a statement. REUTERS

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BRIEF

Politicians ask DOJ about talks on Baltimore police

Maryland congressional lawmakers have asked the U.S. Justice Department about the status of talks on reforming Baltimore's troubled police department.

The letter from Maryland's senators, a senator-elect and three congressmen said they were hearing growing concern from constituents about delays in drafting the settlement.

A Justice Department report released in August found that the 2,600-member police department engaged in a pattern of conduct that violated the Constitution or federal law. Settlement talks between the city and the Justice Department on reforms had been expected to conclude by Nov. 1.

The letter was sent on Monday to Attorney General Loretta Lynch, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Mayor-elect

Catherine Pugh. It was signed by Sens. Barbara Mikulski and Ben Cardin, Senator-elect Chris Van Hollen and Congressmen Elijah Cummings, Dutch Ruppersberger and John Sarbanes, all Democrats.

A Justice Department spokesman said the letter was under review. Vanita Gupta, head of the department's civil rights division, said last month that both sides were working toward an accord as quickly as

possible.

A spokesman for Rawlings-Blake did not respond to a request for comment.

The Justice Department probe was launched after the 2015 death of a black man, Freddie Gray, from an injury in police custody. Gray's death sparked rioting in the largely African-American city and fueled the Black Lives Matter movement protesting police brutality against minorities. **REUTERS**

Almost half the world will be online by end of 2016; poorer countries will lag, report shows



Clients use a tablet computer in a cybercafe in the Medina district of Dakar, the capital of Senegal, in West Africa. **GETTY IMAGES**

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By the end of 2016, almost half of the world's population will be using the internet as mobile networks grow and prices fall, but their numbers will remain concentrated in the developed world, a United Nations agency said on Tuesday.

In the world's developed countries about 80 percent of the population use the internet. But only about 40 percent in developing countries and less than 15 percent in less-developed countries are online, according to a report by the U.N.'s International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

In several of Africa's poorer and more fragile countries, only one person in 10 is on the internet. The offline population is more widely female, elderly, less educated, poorer and lives in rural areas, said the union, a specialized agency for informa-

tion and communication technologies.

Globally, 47 percent of the world's population is online, still far short of a U.N. target of 60 percent by 2020. Some 3.9 billion people, more than half the world's population, are not. ITU expects 3.5 billion people to have access by the end of this year.

"In 2016, people no longer go online, they are online. The spread of 3G and 4G networks across the world had brought the internet to more and more people," the report said.

Telecoms and internet companies are expanding as more affordable smartphones encourage consumers to browse the internet, causing demand to grow for data-heavy services. However, less-developed countries — LDCs — still trail the rest of the world.

REUTERS

"Internet penetration levels in LDCs today have reached the level enjoyed by developed countries in 1998, suggesting that the LDCs are lagging nearly 20 years behind the developed countries."

The report

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Billy Bob Thornton: Still bad

Billy Bob Thornton's cantankerous Willy, right, reunites with Brett Kelly's Thurman Merman, now in his early 20s, in "Bad Santa 2." JAN THUIS, BROAD GREEN PICTURES, MIRAMAX

The legend talks about waiting to do "Bad Santa 2" and that time he was pitched "Sling Blade 2."



MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

Billy Bob Thornton didn't want a bad "Bad Santa 2." One reason the filmmakers waited 13 years since the original instant classic — in which he plays a foul-mouthed, alcoholic, bracingly miserable thief who poses as Kris Kringle in order to steal loot — was they didn't want to fall into the usual sequel traps. He wanted the follow-up to be similar but different. This time, Willy is in Chicago, reuniting with not just Tony Cox's Marcus and Brett Kelly's now-grown Thurman Merman, but also his estranged mother (Kathy Bates), who's also a crook.

Thornton, 61, talks to us about not treating the movies as comedies,

the reason Lauren Graham doesn't return and that time someone wanted to make a sequel to "Sling Blade."

The original created this cottage industry of "Bad" movies: "Bad Grandpa," "Bad Teacher"... They got "Bad" everything now. My friends and I sit around coming up with different ones: "Bad Lawn Equipment Salesman."

One thing I've always liked about the first "Bad Santa" is Willy feels like a real guy. There's a lot of dive bars across the country filled with people as miserable as he is. Yeah. And that's the thing about doing a comedy: To make a character genuinely funny or interesting, you have to play it straight. I play this part the same way I played the part in "Monster's Ball" or "A Simple Plan" or "Sling Blade." You don't go out there and try to be a funny guy; you play it straight.

You've mostly avoided sequels throughout your career.

Yeah, I have. This one seemed to make sense to me. Not only did I want to play the character again, but it was a natural for a sequel. Some movies just aren't. I've been asked to do a sequel to "Sling Blade." I was like, "Well, how the hell would you do that?"

What could possibly be the plot of "Sling Blade 2"?

I have no idea. First of all, he would either be in a mental institution the whole movie, or he would be let out again and kill somebody else. [Laughs] At that point it would become like "Friday the 13th" or something.

One reason I've always liked "Bad Santa" is because, as I got older, I realized that for some people, the holidays are the worst time of the year.

It's very easy to get into a melancholy state during Christmas. Because you remember the joy

of being a child and how magical Christmas was. If I didn't have kids, there's no telling how I'd feel at Christmas. But at least through them I can enjoy it.

One of the surprises this time is there's a scene with Octavia Spencer. I think a lot of people don't know she was in the first. Her life has changed a lot since 2003.

It was very gracious of Octavia, at her stature now, to come back and do that little cameo for us. We had to have those moments in there that reprised something from the original. Frankly, we missed Lauren Graham. I loved working with Lauren, she was so good in the first one. But to bring her into this one, it would have been forced. We would have had to concoct some cockamamie story about how she got to Chicago, and it wouldn't have worked. It certainly wasn't because we didn't want her in the movie. That would have been amazing.

Do you think you'll wait another 13 years for another one?

If this one's successful, they'll do it a little sooner this time. If they wait another 12 or 13 years it will be called "Old Folks Home." [Laughs] They'll have me on a walker trying to rob the nursing home.

Or it could be that Willy finally, at long last, gets his stuff together. He'd be a nice guy. There wouldn't even be any jokes.

[Laughs] Exactly. Just call it "Good Santa."



GETTY IMAGES

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The holiday season is officially underway, and people are on the hunt for unique and thoughtful gifts for all the loved ones in their lives.

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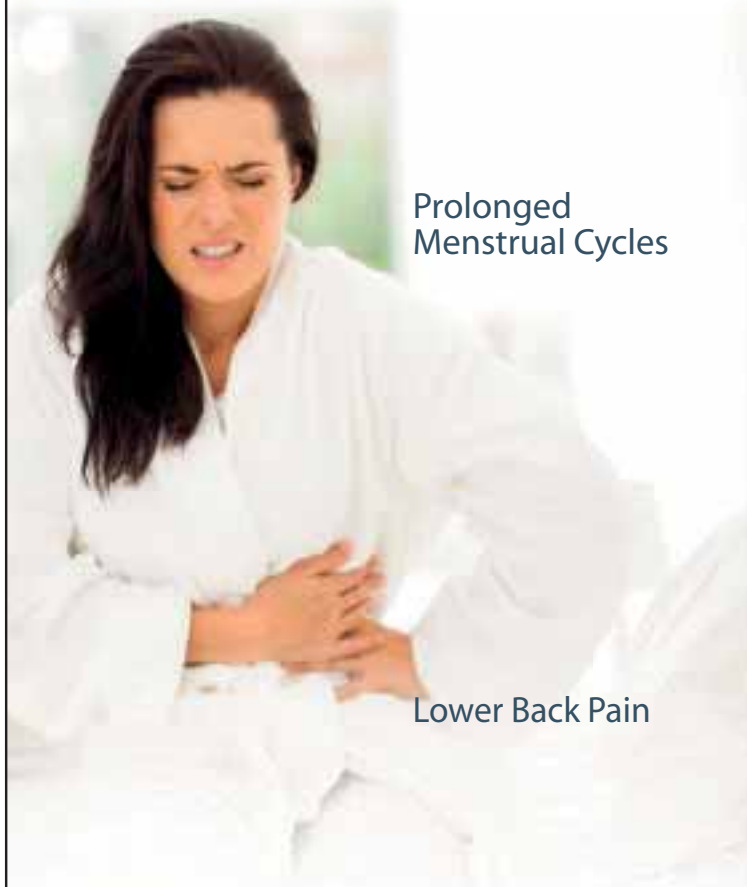
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All that makes 'iCuba!' unique

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ALIZAH SALARIO
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The fossil of a giant sloth is not a highlight one might expect to find at an exhibit about Cuba, the dynamic island just 90 miles south of Florida. Yet it's an oddly fitting start to "¡Cuba!," a new exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) about the island nation's traditions, biodiversity and culture.

Developed in collaboration with the Cuban

National Museum of Natural History, this bilingual exhibit attempts to "take people beyond the headlines," according to Ana Luz Porzecanski, co-curator of "¡Cuba!" and director of the AMNH's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation. "Cuba is more than Cuban cigars, or its music, or its old cars."

That's not to say those elements were left out — in fact, the wide-ranging exhibit does feature a slick turquoise 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air. But what makes it more than a glossy travelogue are its faithful recreations of authentic scenes that allow visitors to experience Cuba's traditions and a slice of life on the socially and economically



The exhibit puts you inside some uniquely Cuban settings, like a Havana street and a tobacco hut. DENIS FINNIN

isolated island that's just opening up to the world.

Staged in a replica of an open-air plaza with elegant colonnades and colorful arcades, the exhibition's main "boulevard" contains definitive Cuban items — a bicitaxi, a carnival display and even a cafe setting — that make for a transportive experience. (If only the plastic *cafecito* and *guava con queso* were real.)

Visitors also get to literally step inside the history and methods of torcedores, professional cigar rollers whose meticulous craft was passed down over generations

inside a very pungent replica of a tobacco shed. Also part of the exhibit are a stunning altar from the Orisha religion, a spiritual practice commonly known as Santería; life-sized posters of Cubans coupled with interview excerpts and much more.

As for the natural part of the natural history museum's focus, Cuba is actually an archipelago of more than 4,000 islands and keys, making it one of the Caribbean's most ecologically diverse countries. "¡Cuba!"'s most impressive feature is its recreations of the island's mysterious caves, expan-

sive wetlands on the Zapata Peninsula and dazzling coral reefs.

These aren't old-school dioramas; it feels like walking into "The Little Mermaid." The now-extinct sloth is a vital example of why Cuba is working to protect its stunning biodiversity; the exhibit also features live animals and lifelike models of many species native to the country.

"¡Cuba!" covers a lot of territory, but it's the life-sized posters and voices of contemporary Cubans



best capture its spirit and intent. "There is so much speculation about this country, and people don't really know anything about it," reads an excerpt from Mirta Roque, a hairdresser in Havana. "If people were to come to Cuba, it would change their minds about the country and its people."

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'Letters to Andy Warhol' reveals an artist's vulnerable side

Correspondence from Mick Jagger, Yves Saint Laurent humanize the aloof pop artist.



KATE MOONEY
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A free exhibition featuring rarely seen artwork and letters from the Andy Warhol archives is now open at the Cadillac House in SoHo.

The traveling show, a collaboration between the Andy Warhol Museum and Cadillac, makes its stopover in New York through Dec. 24 before heading to L.A., Miami and then onto an international tour through 2018.

The exhibition includes new pieces inspired by the collection, with contributions from Sean Lennon, shoe designer Brian Atwood and fashion writer Derek Blasberg, among other high-profile creatives.

Patrick Moore, the Warhol Museum's interim director, says it's the "emotional tone" of the letters that makes the collection so compelling.

Take the letter Yves Saint Laurent hand wrote to Warhol in 1974 dispelling rumors that the French fashion designer didn't care for Warhol's paintings of him: "I love them; I admire them; I am your friend," it reads.

"It's touching [to see] two of the most famous men in the world, still having insecurity and vulnerability," says Moore.

Nathan Tan, Cadillac's associate director of brand



Andy Warhol and Cadillac: two American icons. SHANE DRUMMOND

partnerships and experiences, says that on the surface, the exhibition is about "bringing together and celebrating two American icons." A watercolor Warhol did of a lipstick red Cadillac, a 1962 commission from Harper's Bazaar, is on view at the exhibit.

"As we immersed ourselves in the archives, we saw something deeper," he says. "The letters' themes of rejection, perseverance and the reinvention of iconic status really resonate with Cadillac."

The 1956 letter MOMA sent to Warhol — who would have been 28 at the time — rejecting his drawing entitled "Shoe," should give hope to any aspiring creative.

In response, shoe designer Brian Atwood and fashion writer J.J. Martin collaborated on a 100-foot tall illustrated children's

book, "Bobby's Brilliant Heels," about a little boy who likes to play dress up with his mom's emerald green pair.

"We wanted to bring this theme [of rejection and redemption] into a current narrative by touching on issues such as gender identity and bullying," Atwood writes in his artist's statement. (Atwood produced a pair of the shoes, on display at the show.)

A 1969 letter from Mick Jagger thanking Warhol for agreeing to do the cover art for "Sticky Fingers" led Warhol's godson Sean Lennon to compose a song "Love and Warhol." At the show, viewers can listen to it on headphones while engaging in a virtual reality experience using Google Tilt to design their own album cover.

A 1952 letter from Marianne Ives gently calling out

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Warhol for the "inane" fan letters he was sending to Truman Capote spawned "Screen Shots," a short directed by Chiara Clemente featuring interviews with Sienna Miller, Zac Posen and other creatives about their own paths to fame.

"The letter shows he had a vision of where he wanted to get with his art," says Clemente. "The film is talking to people about that, the challenges, the successes, the different things artists have to go through to believe in themselves."

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FANTASY FOOTBALL: LATE SEASON ADDS

OPINION



**BILL
DUBIEL**

With injuries piling up across the league, it's more important now than ever to do your research on the waiver wire. Be sure to check out Rotoballer.com's Fantasy Football Waiver Wire Tool for up-to-the-hour waiver wire advice and ideas, and to follow me @Roto_Dubs for quick-hitting news and analysis.

Pierre Producing

The Washington Redskins are poised for a playoff run thanks to a newly-balanced offense. Undrafted free agent Rob Kelley has been a revelation in the running game, rushing for 321 yards and four touchdowns over his last three games. With defenses forced to account for



Colin Kaepernick's running ability gives him some decent fantasy value. GETTY IMAGES

Kelley, Kirk Cousins has been able to air it out with great effect. Pierre Garcon has been the main beneficiary, scoring touchdowns in each of his last three games along with 246 yards on 16 catches. He should be a solid every-week WR3 that makes for a great depth add for the home stretch.

Kaepernick has high weekly floor

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick has been a surprising source of fantasy production since taking over for the inept Blaine Gabbert in Week 6. Kaepernick's athleticism yields a high floor every week thanks to his rushing ability—he

averages six rushes per game for 43 yards on top of whatever passing stats he accumulates. His upside is limited through the air given the lack of weapons around him, but he's certainly been doing enough to merit fantasy consideration down the stretch with plenty of tasty matchups on the docket (at MIA, vs. NYJ, at

NFL Sleepers of the Week

Each week we will identify three players worth taking a shot on in deeper leagues.

Jared Cook, TE, Green Bay Packers – Cook returned from injury with a bang in Week 11, hauling in six passes for 105 yards and a touchdown. Aaron Rodgers spreads it around enough that Cook should be able to make an impact every week.

Wendell Smallwood, RB, Philadelphia Eagles – With Darren Sproles and Ryan Mathews both at less than 100 percent, the dynamic Smallwood could be the most productive back in Philly in the home stretch.

Tyler Boyd, WR, Cincinnati Bengals – With A.J. Green lost for at least the next few weeks, Boyd has an opportunity to show what made him a second-round pick in April.

CHI, at ATL).

Lack of TDs for Benjamin

Kelvin Benjamin is the clear top talent in the Carolina passing game, but he simply has not produced in 2016. He enters Week 12 as the WR23 in ESPN standard leagues, which is disappointing

given the high price owners paid on draft day. The problem is a lack of touchdowns, as Benjamin has seven games of 70 or more yards on the season. His floor is pretty high, at about seven or eight points, but he simply hasn't gotten the looks in the end zone. He can't be counted on as a WR1 or WR2.

STRAIGHT Talk



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Best NFL bets for Week 12

Where to place your money on Thanksgiving Day and over the course of a great long weekend of football.

Minnesota Vikings at Detroit Lions (-2.5)

Detroit has won and covered in three straight Thanksgiving Day games, and they should make it four against the division rival Vikings on Thursday.

The Lions have allowed an average of just 297 yards in their last three games, while Sam Bradford and company come into this contest ranked last in YPG and 22nd in scoring. And were it not for their above-average scoring defense and special teams, that rank would be even lower. **The pick: Lions -2.5**

Arizona Cardinals at Atlanta Falcons (-4)

The Cardinals are 3-7 ATS (against the spread) in their last 10 games and haven't looked good since beating up on the Jets on Oct. 23. They were involved in an awful 6-6 tie with Seattle immediately following that win then lost to Carolina, scrapped



The Lions have hosted Thanksgiving Day games since 1934. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

by the hapless 49ers and lost in Minnesota to a team that had previously dropped four straight.

Meanwhile, the Falcons are rested off their bye week and look like a good "buy low" option after throwing in a clunker against the Eagles two weeks ago. That 24-15 loss was excusable as their offense has been dominant all year long. Matt Ryan's unit is third in YPG and leads the league in scoring at 32 PPG.

Best of the rest (picks in bold)

Redskins at Cowboys (-7)
Steelers (-6) at Colts
49ers at Dolphins (-7.5)
Titans (-3.5) at Bears
Jaguars at Bills (-7.5)
Rams at Saints (-7)
Giants (-7) at Browns

The pick: Falcons -4
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NFL power rankings | by Luke Miller

No. 1

Cowboys
(9-1)



Last week we summed up Ezekiel Elliott's outstanding season, so here's a look at Dak Prescott's rookie year-to-date. You decide who's better. Dak is on pace for over 4,200 yards passing, has thrown 17 touchdowns to just two interceptions.



No. 4

Raiders
(8-2)



The Raiders sit alone atop the AFC West, and atop the AFC playoff picture. The team ran for just 30 yards against the Texans Monday, don't let that fool you. Running backs Latavius Murray, Jalen Richard, and Jamize Ozalawe combined for 11 catches for 199 yards and two scores.

No. 6

Giants
(7-3)



Landon Collins has five picks in four games and still all we can think is: poor Giants fans. It might be weird to say that about a team that's won five straight, but even at home against the Bears your team refuses to win by more than one score. This week, at Cleveland, they've got this.

No. 8

Redskins
(6-3-1)



What a revenge for Washington against the team that ended their 2015 season in the first round of the playoffs. With the offense clicking on all cylinders — it seems Rob Kelley has firmly supplanted Matt Jones, and with 137 rushing yards it's hard to argue against.

No. 10

Lions
(6-4)



Two fumbles didn't do the Lions in against Jacksonville, but they'll want to have the turnovers sorted out before their Thanksgiving rematch against the Vikings. This game is for the division lead, and it looks like Minnesota's defense will be as opportunistic as ever come Thursday.

No. 2

Seahawks
(7-2-1)



Seattle welcomed Thomas Rawls back with a team-leading 14 carries, but rookie C.J. Prosise kicked off the scoring with a 72-yard scoring run. Russell Wilson's legs looked great, as he was continuously flushed but frustrated the Eagles pass rush by escaping or, more often, finding the open man.

No. 3

Patriots
(8-2)



It's hard to find fault with the Patriots performance: 444 yards, four passing touchdowns, and yet somehow you just expected a larger victory by a New England team that had just lost and was visiting the NFL's resident punching bag. Dion Lewis was solid his return to action.

No. 5

Broncos
(7-3)



The Tony Romo rumors can be put on hold for now. The Broncos are concerned with 2016 for the moment, and a monster matchup looms against Kansas City Sunday night. With the Chiefs and Broncos both at 7-3 and a game behind the Raiders in the AFC West, this is the kind of matchup the NFL needs.

No. 7

Chiefs
(7-3)



Their lack of offense was bound to catch up to them at some point, though at home against Tampa Bay wasn't the spot anyone would have picked. Despite this being a close game throughout, the Chiefs still got away from what they do best: running the football.

No. 9

Falcons
(6-4)



The Falcons have to be sick of playing birds. They're 0-2 in matchups against the Seahawks and Eagles, and now the Cardinals will try their hand at stopping Atlanta. They can't let off the gas. The Buccaneers are just one game behind. Atlanta will be well-rested after getting its bye.

Best of the rest

- 11 — Texans (6-4)
- 12 — Dolphins (6-4)
- 13 — Eagles (5-5)
- 14 — Vikings (6-4)
- 15 — Colts (5-5)
- 16 — Ravens (5-5)
- 17 — Bills (5-5)
- 18 — Steelers (5-5)
- 19 — Buccaneers (5-5)
- 20 — Titans (5-6)
- 21 — Panthers (4-6)
- 22 — Cardinals (4-5-1)
- 23 — Saints (4-6)
- 24 — Packers (4-6)

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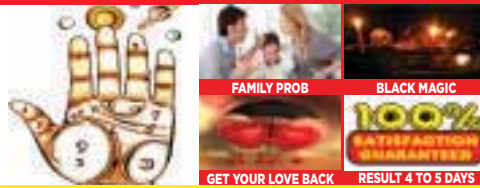


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Across

- 1 Dupe
- 5 Place for a sleeping bag
- 9 Brother's child
- 14 Diet spread
- 15 Reebok rival
- 16 Broke off
- 17 Looks sleepy
- 18 Chemists' lairs
- 19 Give the slip
- 20 Sweeper's need
- 22 Bee's posterior
- 24 "Luck of the Draw" singer
- 26 Sum total
- 27 Treats wood
- 30 On the topic
- 35 Actress -- Berry
- 36 Miff
- 37 Brickell of pop
- 38 Perry Mason's org.
- 39 Snow --
- 42 Mantra chants
- 43 Easy win
- 45 "Wimoweh" beast
- 46 C-3PO or R2-D2
- 48 Threshold
- 50 Sweetie pies
- 51 Make a selection
- 52 Like a stumblebum
- 54 Grayer
- 58 Shoe inserts
- 62 Ice-fishing tool
- 63 NFL broadcaster
- 65 Fix potatoes

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/games

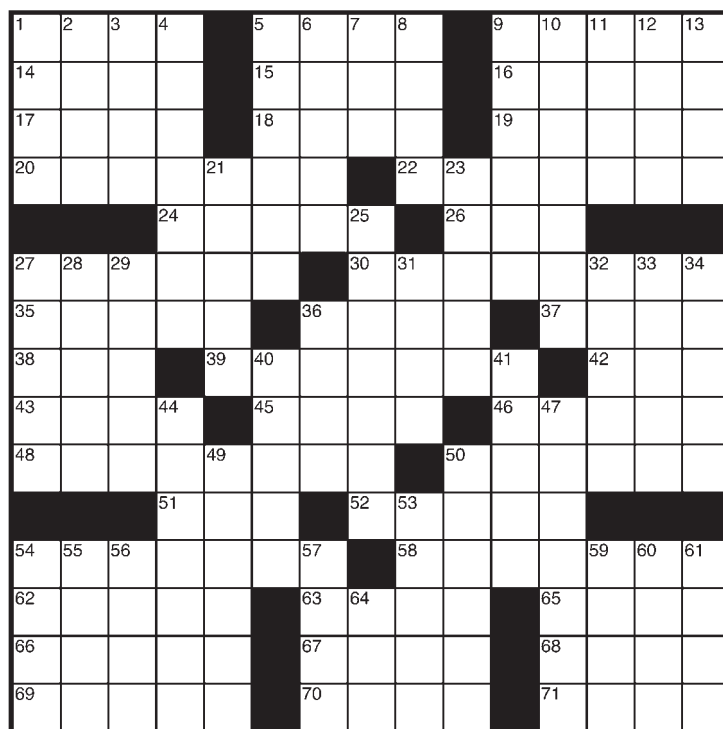
- 66 Coup de --
- 67 Vineyard valley
- 68 Ark. neighbor
- 69 Brand to sleep on
- 70 Kid stuff
- 71 Find in the dark

Down

- 1 Body of water
- 2 Slugger Moises --
- 3 Gets spliced
- 4 It may be flared
- 5 Chunnel terminus

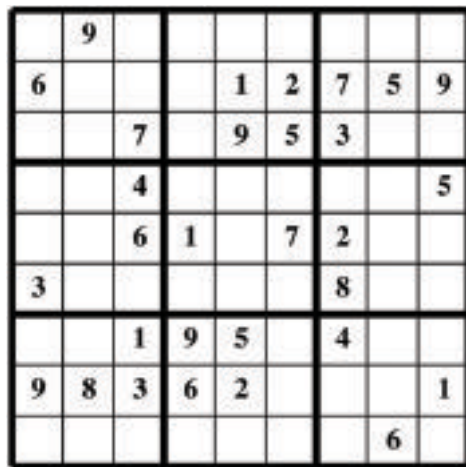
- 6 -- garde
- 7 Playing marble
- 8 "El Condor --"
- 9 Meter marker
- 10 Entail
- 11 Party-tray cheese
- 12 Yield, as territory
- 13 Idyllic spot
- 21 Jury or wainscot
- 23 Farm machine
- 25 Libya's capital
- 27 Pottery fragment
- 28 Major no-no
- 29 Texas tourist site
- 31 Pizzazz
- 32 Mud brick
- 33 Trekkie idol
- 34 Dry runs
- 36 Churn up
- 40 Upper-crust
- 41 Plummets
- 44 Keep safe
- 47 Fully informed (3 wds.)
- 49 Bridal wreath shrub
- 50 Redheads' tints
- 53 Chilly
- 54 Droops
- 55 Artificial fly
- 56 Microbiology gel
- 57 Monthly payment for many
- 59 Area behind a dam
- 60 Dashiell's peer
- 61 Close off
- 64 -- Paulo

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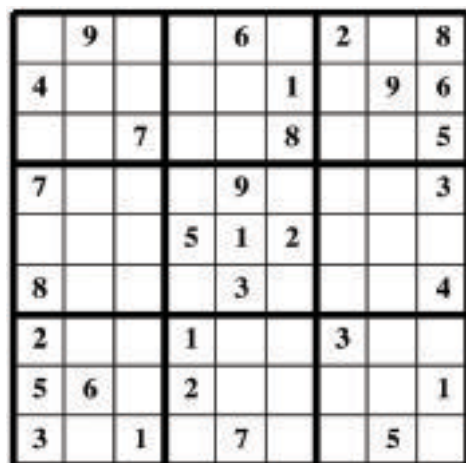


metro.us/sudoku

easy



hard



metro.us/horoscopes



Aries Check your financial status before you make a purchase or donation. You are best off putting money in a safe place and locking up your credit cards to avert temptation.



Taurus Change may be upsetting, but if you find a way to go with the current, you will stay in the mainstream, where you can be most effective.



Gemini Do your own thing. You'll be in the spotlight if you are assertive and make things happen. Talk is cheap if you don't follow through.



Cancer Don't make abrupt changes based on an emotional flare-up. It's best to back away from turmoil and focus on something you enjoy doing.



Leo You'll gain support if you share your plans with someone you respect and trust. A new beginning is within reach. Pick up the pace and head for the finish line.



Virgo Domestic changes will turn out well, even if they disrupt your emotional life. Get involved in pastimes or networking functions that will be beneficial.



Libra An emotional matter will deter you from getting ahead. Don't divulge what you are going through to anyone you are connected to professionally.



Scorpio Don't leave anything to chance. Stay on top of what everyone is doing and cover any shortcoming you see with added detail and physical input.



Sagittarius A challenge will inspire you to take on greater goals. Establish your position and where you see yourself heading. The sky is the limit.



Capricorn Keep a steady pace. Work with what you have already established instead of incorporating something new into the mix.



Aquarius Convey your message to anyone who will listen. Display your talents and offer alternative suggestions. If you take command, you will get positive results.



Pisces What you do for others should be your focus. Avoid lengthy discussions or giving in to demands made by people who don't need help. Focus on the underdog. **EUGENIA LAST**

Yesterday's answers



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